

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSCE-00 IO-13 NSC-05 AID-05

EB-07 /090 W

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O R 290001Z SEP 76 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 28002

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH POSITIONS ON CYPRUS

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GREEK MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JOHN TSOUNIS, TOLD EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN SEPTEMBER 28 THAT CYPRUS ISSUE HAD ONLY BEEN TOUCHED ON BRIEFLY DURING MEETINGS BETWEEN TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL AND GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS SEPTEMBER 27 IN NEW YORK.

2. TSOUNIS SAID BITSIOS HAD CONFIRMED TO TURKS THEIR INTEREST IN EARLY CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND REITERATED THAT PROGRESS COULD NOT BE MADE WITHOUT TURKISH CON-SESSIONS, SINCE TURKS WERE IN POSSESSION OF ALL THE KEY CYPRUS CARDS. BITSIOS REPORTEDLY ASKED CAGLAYANGIL DIRECTLY WHETHER THERE WAS ANY FLEXIBILITY IN THE TURKISH POSITION ON TERRITORY.

3. TSOUNIS SAID CAGLAYANGIL RESPONDED THAT THE TURKISH
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POSITION WAS CLEAR: THERE SHOULD BE TWO (2) FEDERATED

STATES WITHIN A SINGLE LOOSE FEDERATION. THERE ALSO
COULD BE "MODEST BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS".

4. THE CONVERSATION ENDED INCONCLUSIVE AT THIS POINT,
BUT TSOUNIS REITERATED THAT NO GREEK NEGOTIATOR COULD
ACCEPT ONLY "MODEST" ADJUSTMENTS.

5. HARTMAN REMINDED TSOUNIS THAT THE WORD "MODEST"
COULD BE INTERPRETED IN MANY WAYS. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER
THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE HAD IN RECENT MONTHS BEGUN DIS-
TANCING ITSELF TO A DEGREE FROM THE CRYPTUS ISSUE. WAS
THIS BECAUSE ATHENS WAS PESSIMISTIC OVER THE CHANCES OF
PROGRESS IN THE CYPTUS TALKS OR BECAUSE THE GREEKS HAD
CONCLUDED THEY COULD NOT OR DID NOT WANT TO BRING
PRESSURE ON MAKARIOUS?

6. TSOUNIS REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO LESSENING OF
GREEK INTEREST ON CYPRUS. NONETHELESS IT WAS TRUE THAT
THE GREEK GOVERNMENT COULD NOT CONTROL THE SITUATION ON
THE ISLAND. IT COULD ONLY ADVISE MAKARIOUS AND WAS NOT
IN A POSITION TO MAKE OR FORCE DECISIONS UPON HIM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO28002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-0507
From: SECRETARY USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976097/aaaaafnm.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK-TURKISH POSITIONS ON CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY, (TSOUNIS, JOHN), (HARTMAN, ARTHUR)
To: NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006